

Reply To Examiner's Remarks

Claims 1-4, 8-12 and 16, as amended, and new claims 17-26 are presented for consideration.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 8-10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(v) as anticipated in view of the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 5,646,979, issued to Knuth. The Examiner rejects claims 3-4 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combined disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 5,646,979, issued to Knuth and U.S. Patent No. 5,526,406, issued to Luneau. The Examiner rejects claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combined disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 5,646,979, issued to Knuth and U.S. Patent No. 5,265,264, issued to Dzung et al.

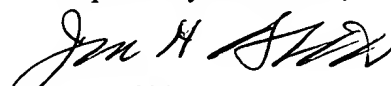
The Examiner indicates that claims 5, 7, 13 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the respective base claim and any intervening claim(s). Claim 5 is canceled herein, and independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 5. Claim 13 is canceled herein, and independent claim 9 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 13. Claims 2-4 and 8 depend upon (amended) claim 1, as before. Claims 10-12 and 16 depend upon (amended) claim 9, as before.

Claim 7 is canceled herein and the limitations of former claims 1 and 7 are incorporated into a new independent method claim 17. Claim 15 is canceled herein and the limitations of former claims 9 and 15 are incorporated into a new independent system claim 22. New claims 18-21 depend upon claim 17. New claims 23-26 depend upon claim 22.

The Applicant requests that the Examiner pass the application, including claims 1-4, 8-12 and 16, as amended herein, and new claims 17-26, to issue as a US patent.

Date: 25 June 2004

Respectfully Submitted,



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Applicant